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#### DEVELOPMENT OF THE USSR METAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRY

The main metal products (metiz) having industrial use are the small-section ferrous metallurgy products which cannot be produced by hot rolling. They include primarily wire products of round or other cross section with a diameter or thickness from 0.05-0.1 to 6-8 millimeters, cold-rolled bands from 0.03 to 3 millimeters thick and up to 300 millimeters in width, steel cable, and reinforcement products for various uses (from rail fastenings to standards for machines and machine tools).

From 1917 to 1947, the output of this type of metal product increased 2.5 times in enterprises within the USSR. For certain particularly important types of products, the production increase was much higher.

In the USSR production of steel wire began to develop as early as 1922 in regions producing quality metal (Moscow, Leningrad, and the Urals). In 30 years, the output of cable made from domestic steel, and domestic rolled and drawn products increased 25 times. Production of rail fastenings increased 4.5 times and iron wire products 2.3 times.

The expansion of "metiz" production permitted the amalgamation of the largest plants into "Glavmetiz" (Main Administration of the Metal Products Industry) and the subsequent transfer of "Glavmetiz" to the Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy. This made it possible to coordinate completely the basic processes: the casting of steels according to quality; hot rolling on blooming, large-section, wire, or strip mills; subsequent rolling or broaching, alternating with heat treatment; and drawing to fine wire sections or strips. The industry was able successfully to meet special requirements for military production during the war because of this coordination of processes.

As a result of the loss of the southern plants during the war, production decreased in plants in Moscow ("Serp i molot") and Leningrad (Plant imeni Molotov), where for the most part the production of alloy and high-carbon wire (ball-bearing, stainless steel, high-resistance alloys, piano

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wire, silver steel, etc) was concentrated. But the industry coped with its difficulties by rebasing a number of plants and shops in the Urals, by re-constructing and expanding eastern plants, and by building new ones, so that there was a rapid restoration of production of the types of wire needed for military purposes.

The over-all production of "metiz" in the East during 1942-45 increased 2.3 times, while the production of light-gauge cable for aviation and wire for fuses increased 20 times.

Under the new postwar Five-Year Plan, the "metiz" industry of the USSR is scheduled to increase production almost 2 times over 1940. In the first few years of the plan production of cable wire increased considerably over the 1940 level, and it is being intensively converted to a higher technical level.

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